

**AAP Headquarters**

141 Northwest Point Blvd
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
Phone: 847/434-4000
Fax: 847/434-8000
E-mail: kidsdocs@aap.org
www.aap.org

Reply to**Department of Federal Affairs**

Homer Building, Suite 400 N
601 13th St NW
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202/347-8600
Fax: 202/393-6137
E-mail: kids1st@aap.org

Executive Committee**President**

Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP

President-Elect

David T. Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP

Immediate Past President

Jay E. Berkelhamer, MD, FAAP

Executive Director/CEO

Errol R. Alden, MD, FAAP

Board of Directors**District I**

Edward N. Bailey, MD, FAAP
Salem, MA

District II

Henry A. Schaeffer, MD, FAAP
Brooklyn, NY

District III

Sandra Gibson Hassink, MD, FAAP
Wilmington, DE

District IV

Francis E. Rushton, Jr, MD, FAAP
Beaufort, SC

District V

Ellen Buerk, MD, MEd, FAAP
Oxford, OH

District VI

Michael V. Severson, MD, FAAP
Brainerd, MN

District VII

Kenneth E. Matthews, MD, FAAP
College Station, TX

District VIII

Mary P. Brown, MD, FAAP
Bend, OR

District IX

Myles B. Abbott, MD, FAAP
Berkeley, CA

District X

John S. Curran, MD, FAAP
Tampa, FL

March 26, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chris Murphy
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Congressman Murphy:

On behalf of the 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and surgical specialists of the American Academy of Pediatrics who are committed to the attainment of optimal physical, mental and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults, we write today to express gratitude, support and endorsement of the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008" (the Act). This legislation is an important step towards guaranteeing continued access to services under the Medicaid program for children.

As we navigate choppy economic waters, it is important to remember that close to 30 million children depend on the Medicaid program. It is critical to their health that Medicaid remain strong. The Administration's repeated attacks on the program, embodied in the regulations that the Act wisely delays, will harm them.

Beyond the immediate damage to children's health, it is clear that State and federal cost-containment strategies targeting children are not likely to yield significant savings and, in fact, will likely result in far greater expenditures. Costs do not disappear when children are cut from or drop out of the Medicaid program. States may experience higher expenditures in areas such as primary clinics in public health departments, increased utilization of emergency departments, and an increase in the number of preventable hospitalizations. Other costs, which are more difficult to quantify, such as school absences for children and missed work for parents when children are sick as well as the adverse consequences of delayed treatment, are also likely.

The AAP maintains its strong support for the Medicaid program, but will continue to work to repeal the policies in the regulations which failed to pass Congress as part of the debate over the Deficit Reduction Act.

Thank you for your continued commitment to improving the health and well-being of children. We look forward to working with you on this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Renée R. Jenkins".

Renée R. Jenkins, MD, FAAP
President